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Title: Reference made to the passing away of His Holiness Pope John Paul-II, Shri M. Palaniyandy, member of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha (1986-1992), Shri Om Prakash Jindal, member of 11<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha (1986-1992), Shri Surendra Singh, member 4<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha and Shri Sant Ram Singh, member of 10<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha.

## OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, while welcoming you all to this part of the Budget Session, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of His Holiness Pope John Paul-II and four of our former colleagues, Shri M. Palaniyandy, Shri Om Prakash Jindal, Shri Surender Singh and Shri Sant Ram Singla.

The House deeply mourns the passing away of His Holiness Pope John Paul-II on 2 April, 2005 at the age of 85 years. Pope John Paul II worked tirelessly for peace and also for development of the downtrodden people. He was also known for his advocacy of inter-faith tolerance and human values. This House specially recalls his two historic visits to India in 1986 and 1999 during which he strongly endorsed Indian pluralism and the concept of '*Sarva Dharma Sambhav*'. The House also recalls the exceptional endeavours of Pope John Paul II in the beatification of Mother Teresa which demonstrated his love for selfless service.

Shri M. Palaniyandy was a Member of the Second Lok Sabha from 1957 to 1962 representing Perambalur Parliamentary Constituency of the erstwhile Madras State.

A devoted parliamentarian, Shri Palaniyandy was also a Member of the Rajya Sabha from 1986 to 1992 representing the State of Tamil Nadu. Earlier, Shri Palaniyandy was a Member of the Madras Legislative Assembly from 1952 to 1957.

An active trade union leader, Shri Palaniyandy was the President of the Tamil Nadu National Cement Workers' Federation and Tamil Nadu National Sugar Workers' Federation. He was also associated with dramatics and music.

Shri M. Palaniyandy passed away on 8 March, 2005 at Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu at the age of 87, after a brief illness.

Hon. Members, as you are aware, in a tragic helicopter crash at Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh on 31 March, 2005 we lost two of our former colleagues Shri O.P. Jindal and Shri Surender Singh.

Shri Om Prakash Jindal was a Member of the Eleventh Lok Sabha from 1996 to 1997 representing Kurukshetra Parliamentary Constituency of Haryana.

Shri Jindal was a Member of the Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution from 1996 to 1997.

He was elected to the Haryana Vidhan Sabha in February, 2005 and was the Minister of Power in the Government of Haryana at the time of his death.

An industrialist by profession, Shri Jindal was the founder of the Jindal Group of Industries. By the dint of his indefatigable efforts and hard work, he transformed the Jindal Group which was started with a modest capital, into one of the leading industrial establishments of the country. His name also figured in the Forbes World's Richest People List.

A visionary and philanthropist, Shri Jindal worked relentlessly for the welfare of labour and downtrodden people. He played a significant role in unifying various communities and in the development of agriculture.

A son of the soil, Shri Jindal was a role model for the country's entrepreneurs. He was the Chairman of the N.C. Jindal Charitable Trust; Patron and Trustee of Agroha Vikas Trust and Agroha Medical College.

Shri Om Prakash Jindal died at the age of 75.

Shri Surender Singh was a Member of the Eleventh and Twelfth Lok Sabhas from 1996 to 1999, representing the Bhiwani Parliamentary Constituency of Haryana.

Earlier, Shri Surender Singh was a Member of the Rajya Sabha from 1986 to 1992. An able parliamentarian, Shri Surender Singh was a Member of various parliamentary and consultative committees.

Shri Surender Singh was a Member of Haryana Vidhan Sabha from 1977 to 1986. He was the Minister of Agriculture and Wildlife Preservation in the State Government from 1982 to 1983. He was again elected to Haryana Vidhan Sabha in February, 2005 and was the Minister of Agriculture and Revenue in the Government of Haryana at the time of his death[k1].

An advocate by profession, Shri Surender Singh was the President, Bar Association, Bhiwani from 1970 to 1971. He served as the Chairman of Bar Council of the Punjab and Haryana High Court during 1978 and from 1980 to 1982.

Shri Surender Singh was actively associated with sports, cultural activities and debates, etc. He was a member of the Executive Council, Kurushetra University and of the Executive Committee, C.R. Jat College, Hissar.

Shri Surender Singh was an outstanding sportsman during his college days. An avid cricket enthusiast he was a member of the Executive Committee, Indian Olympic Association.

A widely travelled person, Shri Surender Singh was a member of the Indian Parliamentary Delegation to the United Kingdom in 1998.

Shri Surender Singh met his tragic death at the age of 59.

Shri Sant Ram Singla was a Member of the Tenth Lok Sabha from 1992 to 1996 representing the Patiala parliamentary constituency of Punjab.

Earlier, Shri Singla was a Member of the Punjab Legislative Assembly from 1980 to 1985. He also served as the member, Executive Committee, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (Punjab Branch).

An able parliamentarian, Shri Singla was a member of the Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals from 1993 to 1996.

Since his student days, Shri Singla was actively associated with various social, political and literary organisations.

An advocate by profession, Shri Singla was a member of Punjab Laws Revision Committee during 1975 and Administrative Member, PEPSU Road Transport Corporation during 1977.

He worked for the promotion of communal harmony and cultural and linguistic resurgence of Punjab.

A man of letters, Shri Singla had to his credit the thesis on "Constitutional Rights of Civil Servants in India."

Shri Sant Ram Singla passed away on 7 April, 2005 at Chandigarh at the age of 71.

We deeply mourn the loss of His Holiness Pope John Paul-II and these friends and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

As the hon. Members may recall, more than a thousand people died in the earthquake that struck the island of Nias off the southern coast of Sumatra, Indonesia on 28 March, 2005. The House expresses its heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the victims of this natural calamity.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

**11.06 hrs.**

*The Members then stood in silence for a short while.*

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**11.07 hrs.**

